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School Kids Pack Local Food Bank 3,334 Items Donated

Aside for room for perhaps one more can of soup, two school bus-full of food items were presented to an overwhelmed staff at the Rathdrum Food Bank last weekend.

Credit Lakeland High School teacher Margie Tibbets with the idea, students of her Foods and Nutrition class unloaded 3,334 total food items Saturday afternoon at the Food bank.

The boxes, cases, sacks and armloads of canned goods filled the back of the food bank with several cases of non-freezable items being stored elsewhere until room opens up.

“Sure were excited,” Food Bank Manager Sharon Dillon said after the last can of chili was hauled inside.

“We’re in pretty good shape! At least for the time being. But people can always use what we have and we have it for them!” said the personable manager.

“Right today,” she said, the bank needs paper products – toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins – as well as personal items; toothpaste, soap, shampoo, lotion and the like.

“There always seems to be a demand for these items. Everybody uses them, so, it’s understandable,” Dillon said.

Tibbets explained the program and how the donations came in. At both Stein’s IGA and Super 1 Foods, Saturday customers were asked to consider purchasing an “extra \$5 sack of groceries aside from their weekly shopping.”

Each sack contained two cans of vegetables, another of chili, a box of dry cereal, one of stuffing mix and two boxes of mac-n-cheese.

The students gathered the many sacks, carting them to the waiting school buses and the short trip to the food bank.

Tibbets kept count of the items as the student unloaded the buses.

Canned vegetables, 738 cans; 457 cans of fruit, 503 of chili, 356 boxes of muffin mix, 106 bottles of syrup, 465 boxes of mac-n-cheese and 710 pounds of flour.

“Probably shouldn’t report this,” the Food Bank’s Dillon said Monday, “we put all the flour on this long table, to keep it off the floor. Well, when we came in Monday, yep, the table had broken in half.”

Tibbets said that as a part of her class curriculum, her students are required to complete 20 hours as community service. Each earned eight hours for their Saturday involvement.